



FOSTER CARE™
ALUMNI
of America

2008 Annual Report

901 N. Washington St., Suite 208, Alexandria, VA 22314 (703)299 6767 www.FosterCareAlumni.org



Creating Community

- New alumni, allies and organizations joined FCAA at a rate of 100 members per month causing FCAA's membership to shoot from 886 at the beginning of the year to 2054 by year's end. FCAA has members in all 50 states, ranging in age from 18-88 years old.
- Four new chapters were formed in Virginia, Maryland, Tennessee and Idaho. By the end of 2008, FCAA's eight chapters were actively creating extended family networks in their states, raising awareness about foster care, advocating for better policy, and teaching others about better practice.
- Nine local communities hosted nearly 500 alumni at our first-ever Alumni Family Reunion claiming this important family tradition as our own while building relationships with our brothers and sisters from care. Other gatherings brought members to FCAA from all over the country including a BBQ in the metro DC area for alumni interns working in Washington with the Congressional Coalition for Adoption Institute and the Orphan Foundation of America.
- Our association continued to expand its ability to network with alumni all across the country through expansion of our social media work. Members followed and interacted with FCAA through Facebook and on FCAA's new interactive website with its own forums and blogs.
- FCAA members reached out to their younger brothers and sisters in care and began the process of creating a book just for them that guides them through the emotional journey of transitioning out of foster care. Publication of *FLUX: Life After Foster Care* is slated for 2009.

Transforming Child Welfare Policy and Practice

- FCAA alumni successfully raised their voices to elected members on Capitol Hill, wrote letters and testified to congress and the media about the need for reform in the foster care system. The positive result was one of the most significant advances in foster care in a decade, *Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008*.
- FCAA hosted its second Alumni Leadership Institute where members from ten states were trained as speakers, writers, trainers and media interviewees.
- The association continued to take members to the Hill throughout the year to lobby for foster care financing reform that would create more flexibility for the states to invest in the prevention of abuse and neglect in families at risk.
- Our hard won expertise as "consumers" of foster care was sought out as we joined advisory committees of the American Bar Association, Casey Family Programs, Foster Parent College, American Academy of Pediatrics, Human Rights Campaign's All Children/All Families Coalition, National Foster Care Coalition, and the National Foster Care Month partners team.
- FCAA staff and members presented at more than a dozen conferences including the National Foster Parent Association, Child Welfare League of America, Foster-Family Based Treatment Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Daniel Memorial's Footsteps to the Future, Casey Family Program's It's My Life, Christian Alliance for Orphans, Court Appointed Special Advocates, and the National Permanency for Youth Convening.
- FCAA members in several states were active in opposing state legislation and/or ballot initiatives that would have artificially limited the prospective pool of adoptive and foster parents by restricting single parents, cohabiting adults, and/or gays and lesbians.



Members of 2008 Alumni Leadership Institute preparing for Congressional visits

Organizational Development

Supporting a mushrooming organization on limited resources was a major challenge in 2008 but these steps the organization took expanded our capacity to serve our membership more effectively:

- FCAA invested in a new membership information system that allows us to track and communicate with our members much more effectively.
- Two alumni-owned companies guided the association through the creation of a new website more reflective and supportive of our mission. The added capacity for forums, blogs, and networking between members was worth the investment alone.
- FCAA outgrew its old offices and relocated to modest, metro/handicapped accessible, and professional space, a short drive from the White House and U.S. Capitol.
- Thanks to the generous support of our members, donors and foundations, FCAA's income grew by a healthy 12% during a time when the economy was in recession.

In Appreciation...of our Members

FCAA members are the heart and soul of our organization. Our members share their time, talent, and hard-won expertise. By joining FCAA, our members have shown their commitment to our mission to connect the alumni community and transform foster care policy and practice. Our sincerest thanks to all of our members, including these organizational members, who are banding together to build a vibrant and highly-engaged social movement.

National Nonprofit Members

Adoption Exchange Association
American Youth Policy Forum
Andrus Family Fund
Annie E. Casey Foundation
Casey Family Programs-TX Division
Casey Family Programs
Casey Family Services
College Success Foundation
Education Finance Council
First Star
Foster Club
Heads Up Productions
Human Rights Campaign
Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative
Mockingbird Society
National Resource Center for Youth Services
National Youth Advocate Program
National Youth in Care Network
Orphan Foundation of America
Pacific Northwest Alumni of Foster Care
Pew Charitable Trusts
Saint Francis Community Services
The Adoption Exchange - Colorado

Local Nonprofits Members

A Second Chance, Inc.
Adoptions Together
Advocates for Children - CASA
Alexandria Department of Human Services
Beech Acres Parenting Center
Berea Children's Home & Family Services
Cambridge Family and Children's Service
School of Social Work,
U of IL at Urbana Champaign
CASA for Kids of East Texas
CASA of Collins County
CASA of Deep East Texas
CASA of Grayson County, Inc
CASA of Montgomery County
CASA of North Texas
CASA of Southeast Texas, Inc.
Casey Family Programs,
Phoenix Field Office
Child Advocates of Navarro County
Child Advocates, Inc
Child and Family Services

Children and Family Research Center,
School of Social Work,
U of IL at Urbana Champaign
Children's Network of Southwest Florida
Cincinnati Works
Florida Coalition for Children
Florida Guardian ad Litem Association
Florida's Children First
Footsteps to the Future, Inc.
Forward Steps
Foster Care Review
Foster Youth Incorporated
Fostering Connection
Foundation For Foster Children, Inc.
Franklin Adoptive and Foster
Parent Association
Friends of Clayton County CASA
Guardian ad Litem Program-
Second Circuit-Tallahassee
Indiana Connected by 25
Kern Bridges Youth Homes, Inc.
Kids Matter, Inc.
LivvyLove Foundation
Lonestar CASA
Lutheran Family Services of VA
MentorMatch
Montgomery Co. Jobs/Family Services
Div. of Children Services
Off Campus Jams
The Ohio Association of
Child Caring Agencies, Inc.
Parsons Child and Family Center
People Places, Inc.
Phillips Programs Phillips Teaching Homes
Pierce County Alliance Youth Services
Pressley Ridge
Professional Association of Treatment Homes
Project Self
Public Children Services Association of Ohio
Student Assistance Foundation
Texans Care For Children
Texas CASA
Treehouse
Turtle Nest Village
Village Network
Voices for Children, Inc.
CASA of Brazos Valley
Wadena County Foster Care Association

WorkSource of the Coastal Bend
YMCA of Greater Seattle,
Young Adult Services
Youth Communication/NY Center, Inc.

Government Agency Members

Adams County Social Services
Department-Colorado
Arizona Department of Economic Security
Charles County Department
Social Service-Maryland
Idaho Dept of Health and Welfare
Indiana Department of Child Services
Virginia Dept of Social Services
Washington State DSHS,
Children's Administration

Educational Members

Bates Technical College
Bellevue Community College
Bellingham Technical College
Cascadia Community College
Clover Park Technical College
Columbia Basin College
Everett Community College
Grays Harbor College
Green River Community College
Grossmont College
Lake Washington Technical College
North Seattle Community College
Pierce College Puyallup
Renton Technical College
Skagit Valley College
Survey Research Center
at the University of Michigan
Tacoma Community College
University of Puget Sound
University of Washington, Seattle
Washington State University Vancouver
West Puget Sound Youth For Christ
Whatcom Community College

Corporate Members

Belmont, Inc
Clarke & Sampson, Inc.
Mullen
Child Welfare Insurance Services

Member Spotlight:

Organizational Member, Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies, Inc.

OACCA is a statewide association of private and public agencies in Ohio that provide a wide array of services to children and families across the state. Association members provide services to thousands of children and families annually. OACCA's mission is to promote and strengthen a fully integrated, private/public network of high quality services for Ohio's children, youth, and their families through advocacy, education, and support of member agencies.



FCAA is proud to count OACCA among our organizational members as they are a valued partner in our work, particularly with the Ohio Chapter of FCAA. Together, FCAA and OACCA advocate for the needs of youth in care and alumni in transition to adulthood with the state legislature and executive leadership. OACCA staff ensure that alumni voices are present on all committees and at all phases of program planning and implementation. This includes the recent development of Ohio Reach, an initiative aimed at supporting alumni in pursuing higher education.

Learn more about OACCA at www.oacca.org

We rely on the individuals and organizations that make an investment in building FCAA with a financial contribution. We are grateful for the generosity of our 2008 donors. We hope all of our supporters share our pride in the impact our community is having for the foster care alumni family, and for the youth following us in foster care.

Founding Member

Casey Family Programs

Champion Circle

(Gifts of \$1,000 or more)

Andrus Family Fund
The Annie E. Casey Foundation
Deborah Elvins
ExxonMobil Foundation
Nathan Monell and Shepherd Faught
Mullen
Public Children Services
Association of Ohio (PCSAO)
Cynthia and Gregory Scheiderer
Amy Falk Sheldon
Washington Workplace – John Murphy

Advocate Circle

(Gifts of \$250-\$999)

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Clark & Associates
Clarke & Sampson, Inc.
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Focus Data Solutions
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Renner & Company, CPA
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(Gifts up to \$249)

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Jay Claassen
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Teasie Colla
Roger Conner
Suzie Cook
Francine Cournos
Mary Crane
Catherine E. Dee
Kikora Dorsey
Samatra Doyle
Jocquelyn L. Duncan
Leigh Ecke
Brien Elvins
Leona Falk
Rosalind Folman
Maurice Gallimore
Paul Gold
Karen Grane
Linda-Marie Grund
Kelly R. Guy
Archibald Conway Halsall
Dawn Hamilton
Gina Marie Harper
Mary Anne Herrick
Jason Hoffmaster
Ann M. Holmes
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Stephanie Dawn Morton
Regeanna Mwansa
Eileen M. Ouellette
Julie Palmer-Blackwell
Tina Parcell
Susan Pierson Brown
Susan Ray
Anthony L. Reeves
Ken and Peggy Renz

Rick Rosenberry
Sam Sabbagh
Gladys Saslaw
Debra Schneider
A Second Chance, Inc.
Gary R. Severson
Joseph S. Shumard
Celeste Skinner
JoAnne Solchany
Julie M. Smith
William Stanton
Tammi Stoois
Janet Story
Chauncey Strong
Sally Suarez
Shamelle Taylor
Lynn Tereschyn
Lupe Tovar
Susan Van Aaken
Saul Wasserman
Susan A. Weiss
Bob Widder
Herb K. Williams
Judy Woak

If we have omitted or incorrectly listed your name, we apologize. Kindly notify us promptly at asheldon@fostercarealumni.org so we can make corrections. This list includes all donations through December 31, 2008.

In Appreciation...of our Donors

Member Spotlight:

First Person with Alumni Member, Patrick Plourde

I first heard about FCAA from Board member Chauncey Strong. He described FCAA as a new organization building unity among foster care alumni. From my work (in independent living) and my own foster care experience, I understand how important it is to create lifelong connections. We teach our foster youth to do exactly that - build relationships with responsible and trustworthy adults who will be there for them, regardless of whether they mess up. Everyone deserves to know and feel that they are loved.

When I was growing up, I had regular reminders of the need for changes to foster care. When I had the chance to change the system from the inside, I knew I could make a difference. I am always asking, "what else can I do?" or "how can I ensure our young people have a good or better footing in life?", and "are we progressing?" I tell young people who feel the system failed them to join FCAA. I want them to voice their concerns and make the system better for the young people who are in foster care and those who will experience foster care later.

I worked with Chauncey and other FCAA members to help start our Virginia Chapter. We needed a local support system that offered a platform for alumni, young and older, to use our experiences to bring about needed change. Chauncey also made a strong case about having alumni trained and ready to speak out for changes right here in Virginia. Many of us met in person for the first time at the fall 2008 Alumni Family Reunion.

Knowing there are youth out there thirsting for an opportunity to learn more is a tremendous motivating factor. One way that we can impact lives is if we can share our experiences.



Audited Financial Statement

AUDITED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGE IN NET ASSETS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008
With summarized financial information for 2007

	2008 TOTAL	2007 TOTAL
REVENUE		
Contributions	16,631	12,683
Foundation Grants	739,005	690,000
Interest/dividend income	1,825	927
Loss on disposal	-	(3,912)
Membership and chapter income	29,112	7,121
Other revenue	17,670	8,700
Total revenue	804,243	715,519
EXPENSES		
Membership	501,534	315,510
Governance	95,679	127,458
Public Policy	77,838	62,394
Supporting Services	178,984	157,065
Total expenses	854,035	662,427
Changes in net assets	(49,792)	53,092
Net assets at beginning of year	47,918	(5,174)
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	(1,874)	47,918

FCAA was made possible by multi-year grants from Casey Family Programs, whose mission is to provide, improve—and ultimately prevent the need for—foster care. Casey Family Programs is proud to be the Founding Member of FCAA.



Board of Directors

Chauncey Strong, Chair
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Casey Family Programs
FCAA Ally Member from Washington

Deborah Elvins, Member
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Membership and Chapters

